

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) Image transmission system for rigid endoscopes and similar viewing tubes with a center rod lens and two outer rod lenses, which are symmetrical to one another with respect to a center plane of the image transmission system that is perpendicular to the optical axis, wherein
 - all lens elements consist in each case of optically homogeneous material,
 - all optically active surfaces are spherical,
 - the center rod lens consists of a rod lens main element and lens elements cemented to it, resulting in a biconvex connecting rod lens, and
 - the outer rod lenses are biconvex, wherein
 - the rod lenses are vertex-to-vertex adjacent to one another and
 - the center rod lens is essentially of the same length as, or longer than, the outer rod lenses.
2. (currently amended) Image transmission system for rigid endoscopes and similar viewing tubes according to claim 1, wherein with a center rod lens and two outer rod lenses, which are symmetrical to one another with respect to a center

~~plane of the image transmission system that is perpendicular to the optical axis,~~

~~where~~

~~all lens elements consist of optically homogeneous material,~~

~~all optically active surfaces are spherical,~~

~~the outer rod lenses are biconvex, and~~

~~the center rod lens is biconvex,~~

the outer rod lenses consist of rod lens main elements and lens elements cemented to them on the side turned inward, so that the result is biconvex connecting rod lenses, ~~wherein~~

~~the rod lenses are vertex to vertex adjacent to one another, and~~

~~the center rod lens is essentially of the same length as the outer rod lenses or longer.~~

3. (previously presented) Image transmission system for rigid endoscopes and similar viewing tubes according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~

the rod lens main element is a biconcave lens and

the lens elements cemented to it are biconvex lenses.

4. (previously presented) Image transmission system for rigid endoscopes and similar viewing tubes according to claim 2, ~~wherein~~

the rod lens main elements are convex lenses on the side turned outward and are concave lenses on the side turned inward, and
the elements cemented to them on the side turned inward are biconvex lenses.

5. (previously presented) Image transmission system for rigid endoscopes and similar viewing tubes according to claim 1, wherein

the rod lens main elements are biconvex lenses, and
the lens elements cemented to them are meniscus elements.

6. (previously presented) Image transmission system for rigid endoscopes and similar viewing tubes according to claim 5, wherein

the meniscus elements are positive meniscus elements.

7. (previously presented) Image transmission system for rigid endoscopes and similar viewing tubes according to claim 5, wherein

the meniscus elements (are negative meniscus elements.

8. (previously presented) Image transmission system for rigid endoscopes and similar viewing tubes according to claim 1, wherein

the length of the center rod lens essentially corresponds to the length of the outer rod lenses.

9. (previously presented) Image transmission system for rigid endoscopes and similar viewing tubes according to claim 1, wherein

the rod lens main elements are symmetrical with respect to their center plane that is perpendicular to the optical axis.

10. (previously presented) Image transmission system for rigid endoscopes and similar viewing tubes according to claim1, wherein

the rod lens main elements are asymmetrical with respect to their center plane that is perpendicular to the optical axis.

11. (previously presented) Image transmission system for rigid endoscopes and similar viewing tubes according to claim 1, wherein

the center rod lens includes ends that are symmetrical with respect to a symmetry plane that runs through the center rod lens perpendicular to the optical axis.

12. (previously presented) Image transmission system for rigid endoscopes and similar viewing tubes according to claim1, wherein

the center connecting rod lens is symmetric with respect to a symmetry plane running through the center rod lens perpendicular to the optical axis.

13. (previously presented) Image transmission system for rigid endoscopes and similar viewing tubes according to claim 1, wherein

the lens elements cemented to the rod lens main elements are symmetrical to one another with respect to a symmetry plane running through the center rod lens perpendicular to the optical axis.

14. (previously presented) Image transmission system for rigid endoscopes and similar viewing tubes according to claim 1, wherein

the rod lens main element of the center rod lens and the lens elements cemented to it configure the center rod lens as a cylinder.

15. (previously presented) Image transmission system for rigid endoscopes and similar viewing tubes according to claim 1, wherein

the rod lens main elements of the outer rod lenses and the lens elements cemented to them configure the outer rod lenses as a cylinder.

16. (previously presented) Image transmission system for rigid endoscopes and similar viewing tubes according to claim 1, wherein

no distancing tubes are used between the rod lenses.

17. (previously presented) Image transmission system for rigid endoscopes and similar viewing tubes according to claim 1, wherein

the outer rod lenses are of one piece.

18. (previously presented) Image transmission system for rigid endoscopes and similar viewing tubes according to claim 1, wherein

the outer rod lenses are connecting rod lenses, which include rod lens main elements and have lens elements cemented to them on the side turned inward, so that the resulting connecting rod lenses are biconvex.

19. (previously presented) Image transmission system for rigid endoscopes and similar viewing tubes according to claim 18, wherein

the outer rod lenses are connecting rod lenses, which include rod lens main elements and lens elements cemented to them on the side turned outward, so that the resulting connecting rod lenses are biconvex.

20. (previously presented) Image transmission system for rigid endoscopes and similar viewing tubes according to claim 2, wherein

the center rod lens is in one piece.

21. (previously presented) Image transmission system for rigid endoscopes and similar viewing tubes according to claim 2, wherein

the center rod lens is a connecting rod lens, which has a rod lens main element to which lens elements are cemented to its side turned outward, so that the resulting connecting rod lens is biconvex.

22. (previously presented) Image transmission system for rigid endoscopes and similar viewing tubes according to claim 2, wherein

one or more of the lens main elements can be equipped with a number of lens elements cemented to it on the side turned outward or cemented to one another.